



Dear Greetings!

Earlier this month, I joined my fellow Zontians and thousands of other like-minded advocates at the [70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW70). This annual summit is the largest worldwide gathering on women's rights and is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; and Zonta was there, in the heart of it all.

In alignment with the official CSW70 priority theme, our delegation centered our messaging on ensuring and strengthening access to justice for women and girls by aligning advocacy efforts and sharing best practices for local implementation. This was seen when our members led, presented and participated in so many of the side and parallel events. I am proud to stand with so many members who understand the mission of Zonta, but use their voices when it matters most.

Key highlights included:

- **Amplifying the voices of the next generation with our two youth observers, Kanori Koto and Jennifer Zhang.** It was a pleasure getting to work with these two young advocates. They both represented Zonta well on panels and led discussions where they shared perspectives on how to shape a more resilient and equal future. Be sure to watch [Kanori's reflections](#) and a [quick meet-up between the three of us](#) as we discuss our time in New York.

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- **Addressing access to justice in technology-facilitated gender-based violence with our partner UNICEF USA.** Together, we co-hosted a side event, *Digital Lifelines: Technology Empowering Women in Emergencies*. We examined how to protect women from escalating digital threats like cyberstalking and online harassment.



We also highlighted our International Service Project, [Laaha](#), a virtual safe space providing girls with reliable information on sexual health and safety.



- **Getting to see a fellow Zonta International President within the halls of the UN.** Helvi Sipilä served as president from 1968-1970 and later made history as the

first woman appointed Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Helvi Sipilä was a true trailblazer and we both call the Zonta Club of Helsinki I our home club. If you did not get to see "[my face when](#)" I saw her photo, I encourage you to take a look!

CSW70 comes at a time of great uncertainty in our world. Yet, when I stand with my fellow Zontians, I am confident that the future holds promise, as we keep our heads high, our values close to our hearts and our Zonta Spirit strong. I am inspired by the passion I see in Zontians and the commitment I witnessed throughout CSW70.

At the same time, this year's session underscored something undeniable: the need for Zonta's advocacy has never been more urgent. Across discussions, it became clear that progress for women and girls is facing renewed resistance and that the defense of gender equality cannot be left to others. If we want to see a world that respects the dignity, safety and rights of every woman and girl, we must continue to raise our voices—loudly, persistently and together.

CSW70 reaffirmed that Zonta's role is not symbolic; it is essential. Our credibility, our data-driven approach and our global network make us a meaningful force for change, but only if we use them boldly. I look forward to the actions you will take in our upcoming campaigns and, of course, the momentum we will build together as we move toward convention.

Thank you for your continued dedication to building a better world for women and girls.

Kind regards,



Salla Tuominen
President 2024-2026
Zonta International and
Zonta Foundation for Women

Zontians at CSW70

60+

Zontians, representing every Zonta continent, were in New York.

20

grounds pass holders were granted access to UN events.

6

parallel events were individually hosted by Zonta districts, clubs and members

5

parallel events were co-hosted by Zonta International

2

events were hosted by Zonta International

2

UN side events were co-hosted by Zonta International

All members are invited to join Zonta International at the CSW in New York. Read below some of the reflections of our members from their time at CSW70.

"Advancing women's equality requires attention not only to legal rights, but to the systems that determine whether those rights can be safely exercised in everyday life."

Bridget Mather, Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc., Australia



"Breaking financial barriers is essential to advancing women's political leadership ... because when women are financially excluded, they are excluded from power. And when women are excluded from power, democracy loses talent, legitimacy and strength. When women lead, the world prospers."

Chantal Platteau, Zonta Club of Waasland, Belgium



"The strength of the UN is bringing civil society together to advocate for change. Change is not a one-time event – it is ongoing and takes a community. Accountability is also a key ingredient to making change a success ... Collaboration is crucial ... [and] men are a critical ally to show their support for women and girls."

Gail Johnson, Zonta Club of Pontiac-North Oakland, USA



Zontians in Action

Zontians are taking action to build a better world for women and girls! Read how Zonta clubs are recognizing the remarkable women leaders in their communities and beyond.

ZONTA CLUB OF HUNTER NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA, launched its "Women of Note," a multimedia presentation highlighting the outstanding work of 10 remarkable women representing diverse fields and eras. The project celebrated local women's achievements and raised awareness of Zonta International's mission. [Read more.](#)



Z and YOUTH CLUBS OF DHAKA, BANGLADESH, marked International Women's Day by highlighting youth voices and honoring the contributions of women in their community. The club collaborated with youth members to produce a [special video](#) reflecting the ideas, perspectives and aspirations of young members for the future of Zonta. [Read more.](#)



Zontians in the News

Zontians are making headlines in their local news by recognizing remarkable leaders. Learn how they are inspiring their communities and beyond.

ZONTA CLUB OF COLUMBUS, USA, celebrated the achievements of 12 outstanding high school students in academics, leadership and community service at their International Women's Day event. [Read the full coverage.](#)

Click the buttons below to be inspired by Zontians taking action within their own communities. Then, tell us how you are changing the world by sharing your story!

Local Service & Advocacy

Zonta Says NO Actions

Share Your Story Today



We proudly highlight our [#ZontiansinAction](#). See the steps our members have taken to make a difference around the world.

WATCH NOW



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITES AND ACTIONS

Zonta Yellow Rose Campaign

As March comes to an end, there is still time to recognize the remarkable women and girls in your life who have honored, inspired and supported you. Check out [the Zonta Yellow Rose campaign toolkit](#) to learn more.

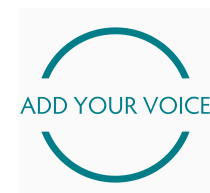


While we celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March as a key advocacy focus, the entire month has been dedicated to celebrating Zonta and its mission. See how our clubs have [recognized the remarkable](#) and learn more about our [Remarkable Women](#), [Powerful Stories](#) guests and [International Honorary Members](#).

Add Your Voice

April kicks off our [2026 Add Your Voice Membership Campaign](#), which will run through 31 May.

All membership matters! Every effort toward recruitment and retention makes a difference. As actions vary from club to club and individual to individual, [the 2026 toolkit](#), was designed to help strengthen your existing membership recruitment tactics and plans and provide additional support along the way. We are excited to meet the new members who will join Zonta in building a better world for women and girls.



Clubs with the highest percentage increase and members who have recruited two or more members will receive recognition. The top three club recruitment event

Step Forward for Equality

While climate justice has been a challenge to embrace, Zontians have always been the first to understand how women are disproportionately affected by climate crises. By focusing on gender equality in climate policies and taking local actions, we know that we will be taking a "Step Forward for Equality."



Three actions you can take this **Earth Day, 22 April 2026**:

- 1. Step Forward Activity** Through this physical activity, members will gain an understanding of how climate change affects everyone across the globe. Climate-related questions will be asked one at a time and members will be asked to "take a step forward if" that event has occurred in their lifetime.
- 2. Pairing Gender Equality with Climate Justice** Just as our shoes are a pair, so are the issues of gender equality and climate justice. Using a template included in the toolkit, members will be asked to draw or write about why gender equality is important to them on the right footprint (gender RIGHTS). On the left footprint, members will be asked to draw or write about what impact they want to make on the globe to secure climate justice (what will be LEFT?). Please send the final image to Zonta International for us to share within our social media and publications.
- 3. International Statement** Zonta International will release a written statement on Earth Day to be shared with like-minded organizations and partners.

Find all materials for the above steps and campaign in [the Step Forward for Equality campaign toolkit](#).



Join the Think Tank

Come share your ideas and gather inspiration on how we can address gender-equal climate action NOW at the next Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank on [10 May](#) 2026.



Virtual Art Gallery coming soon

Before the Virtual Art Gallery launches on 22 April, [submit your art](#) to the virtual gallery to express your support for gender-equal climate action. [Watch](#) the Zonta Says NOW promo video or [view](#) the flyer.

Plan your Vancouver adventure!

Keep an eye out for our next Convention email. We will be announcing our Building a Better World Breakthrough Sessions and details about our networking opportunities. It's also not too late to reserve your spot at one of our Zonta-exclusive evening ticketed events or book a pre- or post-convention tour.



Start planning your days now by reading the [Call to Convention](#). There, you will find the best tips and info for your stay in Vancouver.

You can still book your full stay at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver at the CAD\$599/night rate, and limited rooms are available on 14 July at the original lower rate. Simply make two reservations and email resv@hyatt.com to combine them. Rooms are also available at the Delta. Check out our [accommodations page](#).

While the Early Bird rate has taken flight, you can still take advantage of a discounted rate before 15 May when prices will increase to the highest rates. We hope to see you 11-14 July 2026. Learn more at www.zontaconvention.com.

[Register Today!](#)

2026-2028 Elections

The slate and bios of all candidates for the 2026-2028 Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women Boards and International Nominating Committee can be found on

We will hold two Meet the Candidate sessions for each of the three groups of candidates.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES: Members are invited to submit questions in advance of the sessions. Members will have the option of addressing the question to a specific candidate or to candidates overall for a specific office/position. Questions will also be taken the day of the session. Submit questions via the form here: [Meet the Candidate Questions](#).

International Officers - maximum 60 minutes

- Session One: Tuesday, 14 April, 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time | [REGISTER](#)
- Session Two: Thursday, 16 April, 6:00 a.m. Chicago Time | [REGISTER](#)

International Directors - maximum 90 minutes

- Session One: Wednesday, 15 April, 11:00 a.m. Chicago Time | [REGISTER](#)
- Session Two: Friday, 17 April, 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time | [REGISTER](#)

International Nominating Committee - maximum 90 minutes

- Session One: Monday, 13 April, 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time | [REGISTER](#)
- Session Two: Wednesday, 15 April, 9:00 a.m. Chicago Time | [REGISTER](#)



Coming next month: Site visit reflections

In late February, Zonta International President Salla Tuominen, International Treasurer Souella Cummings and Director of Finance Cathleen Ferguson were welcomed in Ecuador to see firsthand the benefits of our [2024-2026 International Service Project, Laaha](#). More details coming in April!

Meet this month's Remarkable Woman: Jurgita Šukevičienė



Jurgita Šukevičienė met with Lynne Foley OAM, host of the Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories podcast, to discuss how she considers her education a driving force in her role as a Lithuanian Parliament Member, by sharing challenges, embracing uniqueness and keeping an open mind and attitude.



Listen to Jurgita's story on the go | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)

Celebrating Zonta International Headquarters

This month, we celebrate the work anniversary of staff members here at Zonta International Headquarters. Please help us in congratulating:



Cathleen Ferguson
Director of Finance
9 years

Eva Mikos
Development Manager
9 years

Yvonne Janvrin
Membership Senior
Coordinator
1 year

Congratulations to our club anniversaries this month!



Zonta Club of Mainz
Germany, District 28
70th anniversary

Zonta Club of Gaylord Area
United States, District 15
50th anniversary

Zonta Club of Okinawa
Japan, District 26
35th anniversary

We applaud your efforts in advocating for the women and girls in your community and beyond. To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in March, visit [Zonta News](#).

Important Dates and Events

- 1-31 March: [Zonta Yellow Rose Month](#)
- 1 April-31 May: [Add Your Voice Campaign](#)
- 13-17 April: [Meet the Candidate sessions](#)
- 22 April: [Step Forward for Equality on Earth Day](#)
- 27 April-1 May: [International elections open](#)
- 1 May: Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award district recipients due to Headquarters
- 7 May: [International election results announced](#)
- 10 May: [Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank](#)
- 15 May: [Last day for discounted registration rates for Convention](#)
- 21 May: [New Member Orientation](#)
- 26 May: [Zonta Advocacy Series - Cybersecurity for Women and Girls](#)
- 11-14 July: [2026 Zonta International Convention](#) in Vancouver, Canada



www.zonta.org

[Zonta International](#) is a global organization based in 65 countries building a better world for women and girls. Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

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